



Radiation Oncology
The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Building
401 North Broadway
Baltimore, MD 21231-2410

(410) 955-8062
(410) 502-1419 Fax
(410) 283-2710 Pager
e-mail: leedj@jhmi.edu

Ding-Jen Lee, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Oncology and Radiological Sciences

June 6th 2001


Ms. Kimberly Topper
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (HFD-21)
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Ms. Topper:

I am writing this letter in response to the planned Advisory Panel Meeting of the Food and Drug Administration to discuss the use of opioid analgesics for the treatment of chronic non-cancer pain and pain in the pediatric population. It is my opinion as a radiation oncology physician practicing medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital that the restriction of the use of opioid analgesics for the treatment of pain in cancer patients would be detrimental to the patients. Our objective here is to provide appropriate and effective pain management to all patients, cancer or non-cancer.

I would appreciate it if you would consider our concerns here during your debate of the pain management and treatment. Should you wish to contact me to discuss this matter further, please feel free to do so.

Sincerely,


Ding-Jen Lee, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Oncology
and Radiological Sciences